



## Pollinators in the Native Garden

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts is dedicated to emphasizing the importance and beauty of native plants. This garden, begun in 2009, showcases many plants native to this area, as well as the animals that interact with them.

Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum virginium*), pictured above, is a huge attractor to many different kinds of pollinators. 75% of all plants on earth need animals to pollinate them. There are many different kinds of pollinators; including bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, flies, ants, beetles, birds, and bats.

There are 4,000 species of native bees in North America, including bumble, carpenter, mason, sweat, leafcutter bees, and more. These bees pollinate our flowers and our crops. 1/3 of all the food you eat is pollinated by bees (including honey bees), so it's good to keep them around. Native plants provide pollen and nectar for local pollinators, as well as materials for building their homes and feeding their young. The beauty of the garden changes month to month as different plants bloom.

Deer repellents such as Milorganite, electronic deer wands, and LiquidFence are used to deter deer from eating the plants.

Photos by Anna Hjelmroos, a natural resource intern.

